

REMARKS

By this amendment, claims 1-5, 12, 13, and 16-20 have been canceled, claims, 6-10 and 15 have been amended, claims 11 and 14 remain as previously presented or originally filed, and no new claims have been added. Therefore, claims 6-11, 14 and 15 are currently pending.

1. Response to Claim Objections

Claim 3 is objected to because of a typographical error with regard to reference to an antecedent claim. By this amendment, claim 3 has been canceled, and therefore the instant claim objection is rendered moot.

2. Response to Claim Objections under 35 USC § 102

Claim 16 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Markowitz et al. (U.S. 6,311,185). By this amendment, claim 16 has been canceled, and therefore the instant claim rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) is rendered moot.

3. Allowable Subject Matter

The Office Action states that claim 6 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. By this amendment, claim 6 has been amended to include all of the elements of base and intervening claims 1, 2, 4, and 5. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claim 6 is in condition of allowance.

4. Response to Claim Rejections under 35 USC § 103

Claims 1, 7-10, 14-15, 17 and 19-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Markowitz et al. (U.S. 6,311,185) in view of Bates et al. (U.S. 5,390,295).

Claims 2-5, 11-13 and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Markowitz in view of Bates, as applied to claims 1, 10 and 17 above respectively, in view of Aleksic (U.S. 6,084,591).

By this amendment, claims 1-5, 12-13 and 17-20 have been canceled, and therefore the instant claim rejection of these claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103 is rendered moot.

Claims 7-9 have been amended to depend from claim 6. As stated above, claim 6 has been rewritten to include the elements present in the base claim and any intervening claims, and therefore has been placed in order of allowance. It is thus respectfully submitted that amended claims 7-9 are not rendered unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103 in light of the cited combination.

Claim 10 has been amended to recite a system comprising elements corresponding to that recited in amended claim 6. Since amended claim 6 is in condition of allowance, it is respectfully submitted that amended claim 10 is similarly in condition of allowance in light of the amendments made herein.

Claims 11, 14, and 15 depend from claim 10, and for the reasons provided above with respect to claim 10, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of these claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103 has been overcome.

Applicants respectfully request that the above described amendments be made part of the official record in the present application, and respectfully submit that support for the claim

amendments and new claim is present in the specification, claims, and drawings as originally filed, and that no new matter has been added.

If there are any shortages, the Examiner is authorized to charge our Deposit Account Number 04-0822.

Respectfully submitted,
DERGOSITS & NOAH LLP

Dated: November 1, 2004

By: 

Geoffrey T. Staniford
Reg. No. 43,151